

IN BUSINESS

Boycott calls won't garner support from mainstream

Like a lot of people, the Greater Colorado Springs Economic Development Corp. had hoped the ugliness over Amendment 2 would go away.

The EDC, the area's primary job-recruiting organization, had been quiet about Amendment 2 and its fallout, and would have preferred to stay out of it.

"We thought the (fighting) back and forth between the two sides would eventually die down," said Al Farr, chairman of the EDC. "It hasn't, and so actually it looks like both sides were getting more and more vocal about using boycotts."

When news reports surfaced recently that Colorado for Family Values was handing out material advocating boycotts of businesses with what it calls "pro-homosexual" policies, the EDC ended its official silence. It hurriedly drafted a petition that said, in part, "the time has come for reasonable people to speak out and call extremism and intolerance for what it is . . . extreme and intolerable."

Colorado for Family Values has said it will pull the call for boycotts from its handouts. The material urges supporters to identify



JERRY MAHONEY

"pro-homosexual" companies that have "so-called 'sensitivity' or 'valuing differences' seminars. These are used to harass employees who privately disapprove of homosexuality."

The group's chairman, Will Perkins, said Colorado for Family Values never called for boycotts of specific businesses, but he still leaves that option open for individual members.

The petitions that the EDC printed say that signers "Do not support or 'suggest' boycotts. We do not support target or 'enemies' lists. We do not support the mistreatment, harassment or intolerance of those with different opinions, to do so is not American, and is not right."

The Colorado for Family Values' handout advised:

"a. letter-writing campaigns to offending business leaders, describing your determination not to patronize their business and to tell others to do likewise.

"b. outright boycotts of businesses.

"c. picketing (civilly and articulately)

"d. Written publicity," including letters to the editor and advertisements.

Early on, the EDC was concerned that Colorado Springs had developed an image since the passage of Amendment 2 of a city locked in a harmful war.

The timing of the EDC's reaction made it look like it was primarily directed at Colorado for Family Values, because some gay-rights groups have been urging boycotts since last November. EDC criticized boycotts by gay groups, too. But the fact is, in this state, a boycott call by Colorado for Family Values carries more weight.

Colorado for Family Values has credibility in Colorado, and its call for boycotts reveals a strategy designed to keep the controversy boiling. It will lose credibility as it, too, advocates militant tactics.

"We really believe very strongly that the majority of people in Colorado Springs, and especially the majority of business people, are tolerant and don't like things that are going on from either side," said Farr, chief executive officer of the Penrose-St. Francis Healthcare Systems, the city's largest private employer. "Both sides are wrong in talking about boycotts and putting up target lists."

Keeping boycotts as options for its members puts Colorado for Family Values in opposition to mainstream groups.

"Boycotts are an economic threat," said chamber President John Fowler.

"We are opposed to boycotts as a political tool and we'll fight them."

A lot of people are tired of the ongoing fight over gay rights. But with the court challenge scheduled this summer, boycotts — and Colorado for Family Values' intention to keep it stirred up — it won't go away.

"When you're very zealous about an issue, it's hard to compromise on it," Farr said. "And most of us are not zealots, and are tolerant of views other than our own."

Jerry Mahoney is business editor of the Gazette Telegraph.

Shoney's Restaurant, North Academy Boulevard and Highway 101, 598-3623.

Charter Salesman with a Purpose Club: Weekly breakfast meeting, 7 a.m. Le Baron Hotel, 314 W. Bijou St. Speaker: Oscar Thunberg. Topic: "Selling or Telling?" Call Richard Edie, 633-3345.

Communicating Leaders Toastmasters Club: Luncheon meeting, 1:15 p.m. Maggie Mae's Restaurant, 2405 E. Pikes Peak Ave. Call Jim McDaniels, 471-8300, ext. 290.

Cheyenne Mountain Sertoma Club: Luncheon meeting, 11:30 a.m. Motor Inn, 2850 S. Circle Drive. For information call Jim Stearns, 596-8010.

Air Force Academy Toastmasters: Weekly meeting, 5 p.m. Building, No. 8120, Air Force Academy. Call Irwin Selig, 596-7562.

Century 21 Academy Real Estate School: Colorado Real Estate pre-license sales course, 6 to 10 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for seven weeks. For information and registration call Carol Smith, 596-8010.

TUESDAY

Kiwanis Club of the Rampart Range: Weekly breakfast meeting, 7 a.m. Chalet, I-25 and Garden of the Gods Road. Speaker: Michael Key. Topic: Key Club convention. Call Dick Kohlhaas, 633-8170 (home).

Colorado Springs Breakfast Optimist Club: Weekly breakfast meeting, 7 a.m. Antlers Doubletree Hotel, 4 S. Cascade Ave. Speaker: John Robison. Topic: the 100th anniversary of the founding of Colorado. Cost: \$7.50. For reservations call Lee Bates, author of "America the Beautiful." Cost: \$7.50. Call Lee Bates, 633-7392.

Synergy Leads Group: Weekly breakfast meeting, 7:15 a.m. 314 W. Bijou St. Call Doug Le Noue, 520-5181.

Forty Plus of Colorado Inc.: Weekly meeting, 9 a.m. Colorado Springs Convention Center, 2555 Airport Road. A nonprofit job search and training center for vocational, managerial and technical personnel 40 years or older. Topic: "Success Stories." For information call 473-6220, ext. 271.

Kemper Securtiles Inc.: Free investment seminar, 10 a.m. Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock Ave. Speakers: John Robison. Topic: "Opportunities for Seniors to Invest for Growth." For reservations call Maryan Schroeder, 636-8040 or 1-800-525-9468.

Building Owners and Managers Association of South Colorado: Meeting, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Antlers Doubletree Hotel, 4 S. Cascade Ave. Speaker: Rick Reisler and Dennis Pringle. Topic: bomb threat drills. Cost: \$15 for members, \$20 for nonmembers. For reservations call 473-8200.

Society of Women Engineers: Sack luncheon meeting, 11:30 a.m. Hamilton Standard, 4350 Centennial Blvd. Speaker: Sue Crahan. Topic: "Women in the Work Environment." For reservations call Rene Speiss, 481-8681.

Downtown Toastmasters: Weekly meeting, noon. Colorado Springs Convention Center, Room 237. Call Kerry Ann Varano, 548-1555.

Centennial Sertoma Club: Weekly meeting, noon. Glusac's Restaurant, 10 N. Sierra Madre St. For information call C. Bob Taylor, 596-8010.

High Noon Sertoma Club: Weekly luncheon, noon. Maggie Mae's Restaurant, 2405 E. Pikes Peak Ave. Call Clarence Scheel, 528-5482.

Westside Optimist Club: Luncheon meeting, noon to 1 p.m. Highway 24 and Eighth Street. Cost: \$5.25. For information call 473-6220, ext. 271.

Kilt Carson Sertoma Club: Meeting, noon. Springs Motel, 2850 S. Circle Drive. Call Cal, 632-6872.

Christian Computer Communicators Network: Monthly meeting, noon to 1 p.m. First Baptist Church, Kiowa and Weber streets, Colorado Springs. Topic: "Effective Newsletters for Your Church or Ministry." Call Marti or Joann, 632-6603.

Insurance Women of Colorado Springs: Monthly meeting, 7 p.m. House, 130 E. Kiowa St. For information call Julie Matthews, 596-8010.

Toastmasters Club 555: Weekly meeting, 6 to 8 p.m. Maggie Mae's Restaurant, 2405 E. Pikes Peak Ave. Call Jim McDaniels, 473-8010.

Kemper Securtiles Inc.: Free investment seminar, 10 a.m. Colorado Springs Convention Center, 2555 Airport Road. Speaker: John Robison. Topic: tax-deferred no-load mutual funds. They are the right retirement planning vehicle for you? For reservations call 636-8050 or 1-800-525-9468.

Professional Engineers of Colorado and Society of Women Engineers: Meeting, 6 p.m. Edelweiss Restaurant, 34 E. Ramona Ave. and I-25. Speakers: Rene Speiss and Sharon Kalinowski. Topic: "Women in Engineering." Cost: \$15. For reservations call 578-3309.

Pikes Peak Chapter of the American Production and Manufacturing Society: Monthly dinner meeting, 6:30 p.m. Red Lion Inn, 1001 E. Highway 24. Speaker: Jay Kirksey of Hamilton Standard Corp. Topic: "The Future of Manufacturing." Cost: \$16 for members, \$18 for nonmembers. Call 578-1225.

WEDNESDAY

Pikes Peak Toastmasters: Weekly breakfast meeting, 7 a.m. Chalet, I-25 and Garden of the Gods Road. Call Judi Ray, 528-1111.

LEADS: Weekly meeting, 7 a.m. Maxi's, Red Lion Inn, 1001 E. Highway 24. Speaker: Cheryl Wilkens. Topic: healthy choices. For program information call Horibe, 635-1551, fax 633-1571. For membership information call Gonzalez, 636-1000.

The Business Network International (Chapter One): Weekly meeting, 7 a.m. Le Baron Hotel, 314 W. Bijou St. Call Walt L. (home), or Margie Cowen, 596-8010.

Woodmen Valley Sertoma Club: Meeting, 7 a.m. Hilton Trail. Call Don Bartek, 528-5400.

Austin Bluffs Sertoma Club: Meeting, 7 a.m. Satellite Hotel, 2850 S. Circle Drive. Call Dave Guevara, 591-1674.

Academy Optimist Club: Weekly meeting, noon. Tony Roma's Restaurant, 10 S. Sierra Madre St. Call Sally Jo Folson, 596-8010.

Briargate Sertoma Club: Bimonthly luncheon meeting, 11:30 a.m. Depot Restaurant, 10 S. Sierra Madre St. Call Sally Jo Folson, 596-8010.

Colorado Springs Sertoma Club: Weekly meeting, noon. Club. Call 475-7412, mornings, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Civitan International, Colorado Springs Club: Weekly luncheon meeting, 11:30 a.m. Retired Enlisted Association, 834 Emory Circle. Speaker: Vicki. Topic: "Civitan Awareness." Call Larry Martin, 596-7882.

Rampart Range Sertoma Club: Weekly meeting, noon. Motor Inn, 2850 S. Circle Drive. Call Jerry or Greg Bianchi, 635-7761 or 596-8010.

Prudential Securtiles Inc.: Luncheon, noon. Antlers Doubletree Hotel, 4 S. Cascade Ave. For reservations call 471-1015.

Prudential Securtiles: Free financial seminar and luncheon, 12 p.m. with coffee and dessert. Antlers Doubletree Hotel, 4 S. Cascade Ave. Speaker: Steve Smith of Rittenhouse Financial. Topic: how do I manage my \$100,000 portfolio? For reservations call 471-1015.

Currently Speaking Toastmasters: Meeting, 6 p.m. Currents Restaurant, 2850 S. Circle Drive. Call Irwin Selig, 596-7562.

Pikes Peak Community College: "Starting Your Own Business" class, 6 to 9:30 p.m. Holden House-1902 Bed & Breakfast, 1902 E. Highway 24. Instructors: Sallie and Welling Clark. Topics: research, marketing. Cost: \$55 per person, \$105 per couple. For reservations call Miller, 540-7257, or Sallie Clark, 471-3980.

THURSDAY

Peak Trailblazers Toastmasters: Meeting, 6:45 a.m. Chalet, I-25 and Garden of the Gods Road. Call Rusty Gates, 593-2500 (home).

Business Builders: Weekly meeting, 7 a.m. Garfield's Restaurant, Bluff Trail. Call John Donohoe, 635-5885, or Karlene Conard, 596-8010.

The Business Network International (Chapter Two): Weekly meeting, 7 a.m. Le Baron Hotel, 314 W. Bijou St. Call Dr. Michael (work) or Phyllis Stearns, 598-9070.

Association of Records Managers and Administrators, Chapter: Luncheon meeting, 11:30 a.m. Patty Jewett Club House, 1014 N. Nevada St. Speakers: Georgia Stefan and Terry Donohoe of the IRS. Topic: records from an IRS perspective. Cost: \$12 for members, \$12 for all others. For reservations call Terri H. April 13. No-shows will be billed.

All Lassen's Leads Group of Colorado Springs, Women's: Meeting, 11:30 a.m. Antonio's Restaurant, I-25 and Garden of the Gods Road. For information call Abbie Dring, 578-0504.

City Slickers Toast Masters Club: Meeting, noon. City Slickers, 30 S. Nevada Ave., Suite 601. Call Ken Ball, 578-6476.

Gleneagle Sertoma Club: Weekly meeting, noon. Gleneagle, 1001 E. Highway 24. For information call Herman Gilster, 481-4811.

Rocky Mountain Book Publishers Association: Booklore meeting, 7 p.m. National Institute of Standards and Technology, 325 Broadway. Speakers: Miriam Gilbert and Peter Kracht of Westview Press. Topic: the marketing-acquisition-editorial team. Call 447-1034 (evenings).

FRIDAY

Win/Win II: Weekly breakfast meeting, 7 a.m. Date Bar, 598-5178.

Brent Green & Associates Inc.: "Creating Strategic Advertising Campaigns" workshop, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Red Lion Inn, 1001 E. Highway 24. Speaker: Brent Green. Cost: \$149. For information call 598-5178.

Service Corps of Retired Executives Association: National Convention, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Red Lion Inn, 1001 E. Highway 24. For information call 598-5178.